

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 201032Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8324

S E C R E T PRETORIA 2505

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PINT, RH

SUBJ: RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN SA TELLS SMITH SETTLEMENT  
WITH BLACKS AND UK ESSENTIAL

1. DURING COURSE JULY 18 SOCIAL FUNCTION AT WHICH HE AND I WERE AMONG GUESTS, RHODESIAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE TO SOUTH AFRICA, AIR VICE MARSHAL HAROLD HAWKINS, TOOK ME ASIDE FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATION. AFTER MENTIONING PRESS ACCOUNTS OF MEETING BETWEEN IAN SMITH AND BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA (PRETORIA 2484), HAWKINS SAID HE HAD JUST BEEN IN SALISBURY FOR NINE-DAY VISIT WHICH ENDED SHORTLY BEFORE SMITH AND MUZOREWA MET. WHILE THERE HE WENT TO SMITH'S OFFICE, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER JOHN HOWMAN. SMITH DISMISSED HOWMAN, SAYING HE WISHED TO HAVE PRIVATE TALK WITH HAWKINS.

2. HAWKINS TOLD ME THAT FOR SOME TIME HE HAD BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE TRAGIC COURSE OF EVENTS IN RHODESIA AND ANGRY AT SMITH'S FAILURE TO COME TO SOME KIND OF AN AGREEMENT WITH MUZOREWA AND, HENCE, THE BRITISH. FOR THIS REASON, HE SAID, HE WAS BLUNT WITH SMITH DURING MEETING. HE TOLD HIM THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT ON PROSPECTS FOR RHODESIAN/UK SETTELEMENT AND THAT SOME AGREEMENT HAD TO BE MADE SOON. HAWKINS ALSO TOLD SMITH THAT IF HE COULD NOT HANDLE SITUATION, HE SHOULD STEP DOWN AND LET SOMEONE ELSE BECOME PRIME MINISTER.

3. HAWKINS THOUGHT HE WOULD BE "BOOTED OUT OF THE OFFICE" BY SMITH, BUT TO HIS SURPRISE SMITH AGREED THERE WAS DEFINITE

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NEED MOVE FORWARD AT THIS TIME. HAWKINS DID NOT RELATE

TO ME ANYTHING ELSE THAT SMITH TOLD HIM DURING THEIR TALK, AND I CAN ONLY CONJECTURE WHETHER HAWKINS' BLUNT ADVICE WAS FACTOR IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING BETWEEN SMITH AND MUZOREWA WHICH TOOK PLACE ONLY NINETEEN DAYS AFTER SMITH HAD PUBLICLY REJECTED WHAT HE SAID WAS ANC TERMS FOR SETTLEMENT AND HAD STATED COMPROMISE AND APPEASEMENT WERE ANATHEMA TO RHODESIA (PRETORIA 2206).

4. IT POSSIBLE THAT HAWKINS, WHO MAINTAINS LOW PROFILE, IS MORE INFLUENTIAL IN RHODESIA POLITICS THAN IS GENERALLY BELIEVED. HIS MEETING ALONE WITH SMITH TESTIFIES TO THIS. (I HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT WHAT HE TOLD ME AND I HAVE BEEN AWARE OF HIS GROWING DISENCHANTMENT WITH SMITH REGIME FOR SOME TIME. HE HAS BEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD WITH ME IN PAST AND WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN BY CONCOCTING STORY OF MEETING.) MOREOVER, IT DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT OPPOSITION RHODESIA PARTY (RP) HAS ASKED HAWKINS TO BECOME ITS HEAD OR AT LEAST PLAY LEADING ROLE IN ITS AFFAIRS. RHODESIAN JOURNALIST TOLD THIS TO EMBASSY JULY 13, AND RHODESIA SUNDAY MAIL REPORTED JULY 15 THAT HAWKINS WAS AMONG "SEVERAL PROMINENT RHODESIANS (WHO) HAVE BEEN TIPPED FOR LEADERSHIP" OF RP. HOWEVER, HAWKINS TOLD ME HE IS NOT HIGH ON RP'S FUTURE, FOR ITS LEADERS, MOST OF WHOM HE SAW DURING HIS VISIT, ARE NOT UNIFIED. IN HIS OPINION ONLY GOVERNING RHODESIA FRONT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO LEAD WHITES TO SOME SORT OF ARRANGEMENT WITH BLACK RHODESIANS.

5. HAWKINS STATED HE COULD SPELL OUT UNPLEASANT TRUTHS TO SMITH BECAUSE HE DOES NOT NEED HIS DIPLOMATIC POST AND COULD CARE LESS IF HE WERE REMOVED. HE SAID HE STAYING ON IN PRETORIA ASSIGNMENT AFTER FOUR YEARS ONLY BECAUSE HE "A GOOD SOLDIER." IT HAS BEEN SAID HERE THAT BECAUSE OF HIS OUTSTANDING JOB IN SOUTH AFRICA, HE RECORD AS HEAD OF RHODESIAN AIR FORCE AND HIS LACK ADVERSE POLITICAL RECORD, HE COULD BE DARK HORSE COMPROMISE SUCCESSOR TO SMITH IN EVENT SMITH HAD TO STEP DOWN.

6. WHATEVER HIS POLITICAL AMBITIONS MAY BE, I BELIEVE HAWKINS GENUINELY WORRIED ABOUT THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING IN RHODESIA. HE TOLD ME THAT PRESENT SITUATION HAD TO BE SOLVED THIS YEAR.

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IF NOT, HE SAID, "WE HAVE LOST OUR COUNTRY." THERE WILL BE DIPLOMATIC FUNCTION JULY 23 AT WHICH HAWKINS AND I WILL BE PRESENT. OUR CONVERSATION COULD BE RESUMED AT THAT TIME.  
HURD

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## Message Attributes

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